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MEDLARS Workshop in Cologne

A foreign MEDLARS workshop was held in Cologne, Germany on June 10-12, 1974. The host for this workshop was the Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information (DIMDI). Representatives of foreign MEDLARS Centers from the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Germany, World Health Organization, Australia, and Canada attended. Other countries which receive services from the MEDLARS Centers were also represented, including Denmark, Norway, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Austria. Dr. Joseph Leiter represented the National Library of Medicine.

Dr. Leiter briefed the foreign MEDLARS Centers on the MEDLARS II developments. The principal feature of the workshop was a live demonstration of the on-line interactive search programs developed by DIMDI for use on a Siemans computer. The system uses high-speed video display terminals and features many browsing aids to the search analyst in search formulations. Retrieval capabilities are similar to those being developed for MEDLARS II. The system is currently undergoing extensive shakedown and will shortly be available to remote users.

Other reports from Sweden and France dealt with experiences with MEDLINE in these countries. An interesting report from France described an evaluation of French publications by a French scientific peer group. The assessments of this group were apparently much more stringent than those made for *Index Medicus* journals by U.S. peer reviewers. The Australian representative described a number of proposals for segmenting the MEDLARS files in order to maximize the number of useful citations in the face of more stringent on-line storage capacity. In the same vein, the Swedish contingent described proposals for data compression to minimize storage needs.

The workshop was followed by a meeting of the directors of the MEDLARS Centers. Details of the new MEDLARS II contracts with the Centers were reviewed and procedures for closer cooperation in extending MEDLARS services to other countries were discussed. The foreign centers requested a more active participation in vocabulary development, particularly those Centers which provide indexing as *quid pro quo* at their own facilities.

The next foreign MEDLARS workshop will be held in the United Kingdom in May 1975.

Retiring NLM Board of Regents Chairman Dr. John P. McGovern (r.) handed over the gavel to Dr. W. N. Hubbard, Jr., at the June meeting of the Board. Dr. Hubbard will assume the Board chairmanship for one year beginning with the next meeting in November. He is now in his second four-year term as Regent (*News*, November 1972), having first been appointed to the Board by President Kennedy in 1963, and elected Chairman twice, in 1965 and 1966. Dr. Hubbard, formerly Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School, was recently named President of the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Also retiring after four years of service as Regent, in addition to Dr. McGovern, is Dr. J. Stanley Marshall, President of Florida State University.

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Public Health Service
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NLM Serial Gap List — No. 7

The following journal issues are this month's continuation to the list of gaps in NLM's collection. If you can furnish any of these items, please address them to:

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Abdominal Surgery 7:7-12, 1965; 15, 1973
Acta Anatomica 56:3,4, 1964; 77:1-4, 1970
Acta Chemica Scandinavica 24:5,4, 1970
Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgium 33: 1970
Acta Leprologica 12-14, 1963; 16-19, 1964
Acta Medica Scandinavica 182:1-3, 1967; 195:3, 1974
Acta Medica Scandinavica, Supplement 482: 1967; 519, 54-524, 1971; 530-540, 1972
Acta Neurochirurgica 18:1-2, 1968
Acta Neuropathologica 4:5, 1964; 6:3, 1966; 27: 4, 1974
Acta Odontologica Scandinavica 24:5, 1966
Acta Opthalmologica 44:1-3, 1966
Acta Opthalmologica, Supplement 90, 1966
Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica 33:2, 1963
Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica, Supplement, 105, 1967; 111, 1968; 116, 1968
Acta Oto-rino-laringologica Ibero-Americana 15: 1, 1964; 24, 1-3, 1973
Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica, Supplement 232
Acta Paedopsychiatrica 38:2-4, 1971
Acta Pathologica Japonica 22:2-3, 1972
Acta Pharmacologica et Toxicologica 23:1, 1965
Accounts of Chemical Research 1:1, 1968
ADIT: Approaches to Drug Abuse & Youth 1:6 & 12, 1973; 2:7, 1974
American Journal of Sociology 79:2,4, 1973/74
AORN Journal 18:5, 1973
Archives of Opthalmology 90:1, 1973
Archives of Otolaryngology 88:1,4,6, 1968; 97: 2,3,4, 1973
Biology of Reproduction, Supplement 3, 1970
Journal of Academy of General Dentistry 21:1-6, 1973
Journal of Dairy Research 38:1, 1971
Journal of Sex Research 9:1, 1973
Newsletter for Research in Psychology v. 1-14

Time Change for NLM Tours

Daily public tours of the National Library of Medicine, previously conducted at 3:00 p.m., are now given at 1:00 p.m. The tour lasts about 40 minutes and covers the History of Medicine Division, Reference Services Division (including interlibrary loan operations), computer facilities, and other unique aspects of the Library.

NMAC Units Win Award

Introduction to Congenital Heart Disease, a five-part series of audiovisual self-instructional units developed by the National Medical Audiovisual Center in cooperation with the Medical College of Georgia (*News,* August 1973), received the American Academy of Family Physicians' award for Best Scientific Exhibit at the annual convention of the American Medical Association in June.

Publication Notes

Duplicates

NLM's Office of Inquiries is interested in hearing from any U.S. libraries which might be able to supply duplicate sets of either of the following publications which have recently gone out of print at the Government Printing Office: *NLM Current Catalog, 1965-70* and *1972 Cumulated Index Medicus* (Vol. 13). NLM will furnish postage-paid mailing labels—usable in the U.S. only—for sending the duplicates to us for eventual shipment to libraries in need.

TDB Review Committee Meets

A new Toxicology Data Bank Review Committee met for the first time on June 10, 1974 at the National Library of Medicine. The Committee—a subgroup of the Toxicology Study Section, Division of Research Grants, NIH—has been organized to provide a peer review capability for the contents of the on-line, interactive Toxicology Data Bank (TDB) now under construction by NLM's Toxicology Information Program. The Committee is Chaired by Dr. Robert E. Menzer, Professor of Entomology, University of Maryland. Its Executive Secretary is Dr. Rob S. McCutcheon, Division of Research Grants, NIH. Other members of the Committee are:

Dr. Marion W. Anders
Department of Pharmacology
School of Medicine
University of Minnesota

Dr. Donald J. Lisk
Pesticide Residue Laboratory
Cornell University

Dr. Robert A. Neal
Center in Toxicology
School of Medicine
Vanderbilt University

Dr. Joseph C. Street
Department of Animal Science
Utah State University

Dr. Roger A. Yeary
Department of Veterinary
Physiology and Pharmacology
Ohio State University

Dr. Robert V. Blanke
Division of Clinical Pathology
Commonwealth University of
Virginia

Dr. Sheldon D. Murphy
School of Public Health
Harvard University

Dr. Donald J. Reed
Department of Biochemistry
and Biophysics
Oregon State University

Dr. Dorothy E. Woolley
Department of Animal Physiology
University of California

The Committee will meet quarterly to review new data being added to the TDB for accuracy and completeness. Thus, all the data being made available to the scientific community through the on-line system will have gone through this re-review process.

The basic design of the TDB was discussed in the April 1973 issue of *NLM News*. The file is being structured around compounds and will contain data about the physical, chemical, biological, environmental, and economic usage properties of these compounds. Only substances to which sizable population groups are exposed and which are known to be hazardous will be included.

Data will be extracted with short text segments ("data statements") from a selected set of monographs, reviews, criteria documents, and from the files of expert organizations. Data statements will be available for whole text search but will also be indexed with MeSH terminology for controlled vocabulary searching.

Preliminary goals are to place some 500 compound records into the TDB during Fiscal Year 1975. Data extraction and file building will be carried out mainly by the staff of the Toxicology Information Response Center at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory under an NLM-AEC Memorandum of Agreement and by Omni Research Inc. under a newly established contract with NLM.

The TDB Review Committee will also periodically review the literature sources used for data extraction and the list of compounds selected for inclusion in the data bank. During the first meeting on June 10, the Committee was given a general overview of the TDB project by staff of the Toxicology Information Program. Following this, the Committee discussed how it would perform its review functions and agreed to begin its activities by evaluating the literature sources that had been selected by the Program for data extraction.

NLM Board of Regents, June 19-20

Board Chairman John P. McGovern presented the Fifth Regents Award for Scholarship or Technical Achievement to Dr. Sharon Valley of the Toxicology Information Program. Dr. Valley was cited for her "initiative and creativity in developing unique toxicology information products and services."

Former Chairmen of the NLM Board of Regents gathered at the Board's 48th meeting to discuss the Library's past, present, and future. From left to right: Dr. Barnes Woodhall, Mr. Alfred R. Zipf, Dr. John P. McGovern, NLM Director Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Dr. Worth B. Daniels, Dr. W. N. Hubbard, Jr., Dr. Stewart G. Wolf, Dr. William G. Anlyan, and Dr. Jack M. Layton. Dr. Cummings was lauded by the Regents for his ten years of service to the Library.

Dr. Cummings presented Director's Awards to three NLM staff members: from left, Dr. Henry M. Kissman, for his direction of the Toxicology Information Program; Dr. Norman P. Shumway, the retiring Chief of the Medical Subject Headings Section (*News*, July 1974), for his efforts in developing and implementing MEDLARS vocabulary design concepts; and Mary Corning, Assistant Director for International Programs, for her effective leadership in developing cordial and productive relations between NLM and similar institutions abroad.

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